

October 9, 2014

Ms. Marlene Dortch

Secretary

Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street SW

Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Received & Inspected
OCT 16 2014
FCC Mail Room

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Re: Applications of AT&T Inc. and DIRECTV for Consent to Assign or Transfer Control of Licenses & Authorizations, MB Docket No. 14-90

Dear Ms. Dortch:

A reliable, fast Internet connection provides access to new opportunities, capabilities, and possibilities. We at the Kentucky Association for Economic Development (KAED) have seen this proven true again and again in communities, households, classrooms, clinics, and businesses across the country. Americans from all walks of life can use Internet connections to transform their lives, and businesses of all sizes can use Internet access to grow and to reach new customers.

But as you at the Commission are well aware, good broadband connectivity isn't available everywhere, and people and businesses in less-populated or remote areas often don't have access to these exciting possibilities. Unfortunately, this is the case in many areas of Kentucky: Our many small communities and rural areas typically have few, if any, access options, and usually the available services don't reliably provide the speeds necessary for modern life or business.

At the Kentucky Association for Economic Development, our purpose is to educate, advocate, and connect. Our membership covers all parts of the Commonwealth, both rural and urban areas, and we remain dedicated to a vision of advanced economic development throughout Kentucky. The lack of widespread 21st century connectivity services in our rural areas is a major obstacle to progress and economic development, and it holds back many of our businesses—the very ones that would thrive if given the chance to compete on even ground.

The merger between DIRECTV and AT&T presents opportunities to bring genuine equality of opportunity to rural areas in Kentucky and elsewhere in the U.S. With approval of this merger, AT&T has committed to expanding access to next-gen connectivity to millions of customer locations in America, including many in rural communities where similar services and speeds are not currently available. Because this merger is poised to offer significant benefits to Kentucky's businesses and our state's economy, we are pleased to support it.

Sincerely,


Hal Goode, President & CEO
Kentucky Association of Economic Development

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